

AN OSMORHIZA NEW TO EASTERN AMERICA.

M. L. FERNALD.

Among some specimens collected by the late Rev. A. C. Waghorne in southern Labrador is an *Osmorhiza* which differs in some striking points from the two species ordinarily recognized in eastern America. The plant, collected in low woods on Capstan Island, Aug. 18, 1893, was distributed as *O. brevistylis*. Its umbels and umbellules, however, are quite naked, not with well developed involucre and involucel such as ordinarily occur in *O. brevistylis* and *O. longistylis*. Furthermore, the small clavate fruit is obtuse and tipped by a very inconspicuous depressed stylopodium and scarcely perceptible styles. The plant is slender and glabrous below, though minutely and sparingly hispid above and on the sharply cleft leaves.

In all its characters this Labrador plant of Mr. Waghorne's matches authentic specimens from the Rocky Mountains of the recently described *Washingtonia obtusa*, Coulter & Rose,¹ a well-marked species launched by its authors with the following apology under an unfortunate name: "The priority of the name *Washingtonia* rests upon the fact that it is mentioned before *Osmorhiza* in a list of three possible names suggested by Rafinesque for the new genus. In the same sentence he expresses a preference for *Osmorhiza*, and later formally establishes the genus under that name, by which it has been known ever since. It is under protest that we displace a name of such long use for what seems to be so trivial a reason, but the name *Washingtonia* will continue to be put forward in accordance with a technical interpretation of the law of priority."

It is certainly to be regretted that these authors felt it incumbent upon them to make a change based upon such a technical interpretation of the law of priority. As has been repeatedly shown this law followed to its technical extremes in all details would lead to such an upheaval of names as has already called out protests from former active exponents of the principle.

The name *Washingtonia*, merely mentioned by Rafinesque² and

¹ Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. vii. 64 (1900).

² "Several names have been proposed for it, *Washingtonia*, *Osmorhiza Gona-therus*; but these are not yet published; the second is perhaps the best." — Am. Mon. Mag. ii (1818), 176.

then abandoned by him for the preferred *Osmorhiza*, was for years applied to the western Sequoias, and it is now in popular usage and maintained by at least one professed follower of the law of priority for a Californian palm. The name was not used for the umbelliferous genus by any author besides its originator (and not even by him!) within fifty years of its original publication, but in the meantime the name *Osmorhiza* was taken up not only by Rafinesque but by other authors. The retention then of the name *Osmorhiza* for the genus is in accordance with the definition of the Berlin rule, which is now being recognized by conservative botanists as the most rational law by which to gain uniformity in the selection of generic names. The plant of the Rocky Mountains which has now been discovered in southern Labrador should be known then as *Osmorhiza obtusa* (*Washingtonia obtusa*, Coulter & Rose), and it should be watched for with some confidence in northern New England and adjacent Canada.

AN EXTENSION OF RANGE FOR THE TYPICAL LYCOPODIUM COMPLANATUM.—It was pointed out several months ago¹ that the plant which has long passed as *Lycopodium complanatum* in America is really not that species as it is understood by European botanists, and the European and American forms were forthwith described and the ranges of both, in this country, appended. The true *L. complanatum*, L. was cited as occurring as far south as Island Falls, Aroostook Co., Maine. In the writer's herbarium, however, there are five specimens collected on Pleasant Pond Mountain, Carratunk Plantation, Somerset Co.,—more than 100 miles southwest of Island Falls. The Carratunk specimens show five good strobiles and as many more old ones. The peduncles range from 2.5 to 4 cm. long and the strobiles from 1.5 to 2 cm.; these are, in all cases, solitary. The undivided terminal branchlets are slightly more than 2 mm. wide but are not so long as in the specimens mentioned by Mr. Fernald (l. c.) who, by the way, recently called the writer's attention to the fact that the Pleasant Pond Mountain specimens represented an extension of range.—J. FRANKLIN COLLINS, Providence, R. I.

¹ RHODORA, 3 : 280.